(v) स्वदेशी तथा आयातित, दोनों नियंत्रणमुक्त पोटाशिक तथा फास्फेटिक उर्वरकों पर रियायतें।

Revamping the Namrup Unit of H.F.C.

468. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when the plan and finance for revamping Namrup Unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation, as declared by the Minister in the Winter Session of the Rajya Sabha, would be materialised;

(b) what decision has been taken on bifurcation of Namrup Unit from the H.F.C. for floating a new company, to regain the health of the Unit; and

(c) what are the reasons for not revising the pay scale of workers of Namrup unit which is long due, without waiting for bifurcation, to motivate them for higher productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) The revamp project of Namrup Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) is under implementation, its Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract has been awarded on 2.11.98. negotiations by HFC for seeking term loan from financial institutions are at an advanced stage. During the period 1998-99, plan loan of Rs. 75 crore was sanctioned to HFC which has allocated Rs. 70 crore towards the capital expenditure of Namrup units.

(b) and (c) The proposal for segregation of Namrup Units from HFC to form a separate corporate entity is to be submitted to the Competent authority in the Government and final sanction of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. The above is required so as to implement the wage revision of Namrup units only.

Overseas Trips of KRIBHCO Officers

469. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Bureaucrats spend a Million, Score Duck" which appeared in "Statesman", Calcutta of 31st January, 1999 regarding overseas trips of bureaucrats and senior officials of KRIBHCO to different countries, without any result;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the status of joint venture fertilizer projects in Iran and Oman, with chronological details and the expected zero date to start the projects;

(d) whether any one has been held accountable for failure of projects in USA, Russia, Jordan, Tunisia etc.; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. If may, however, be noted that of the total expenditure of US$ 12,86,201 made on foreign visits by KRIBHCO from 1994-95 upto October, 1998, US$ 2,28,372 was incurred on participation in various training seminars/ workshops and conferences and US $ 9,83,271 has been incurred on visits undertaken in connection with various pre-project activities and meetings of the Joint Management Committees and Boards of Directors in relation to the joint venture projects in Oman and Iran. These projects are currently being pursued by KRIBHCO;

(c) MOU for joint venture project in Oman was signed in July 1994 and investment approval was given by government in December 1997. Financial